

**Lynchburg-based infantry battalion served in Iraq since March**

**On page 2: Va. Battalion best in the Guard**

## Virginia Soldiers return from federal duty in Iraq



**Members of the 29th Infantry Division Association who served in World War II greet Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Aug. 25 at the Roanoke Regional Airport.**

Approximately 300 Soldiers from the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Brigade Combat Team returned to Virginia Aug. 25 after serving in Iraq since March 2010.

The Soldiers flew into the Roanoke Regional Airport where they were greeted by senior leaders of the Virginia Guard as well as World War II veterans from the 29th Infantry Division Association. The Soldiers then travelled by bus to be reunited with their family and friends in their home armories in Bedford, Christiansburg, Lexington and Lynchburg.

“They went for five straight months without a break, every day, without a fault,” Lt. Col. Scott Smith, commander of 1st Battalion, said of the Soldiers in the unit. “They never had an accident, they never got blown up, and I attribute that success to their discipline and to the leadership of the noncommissioned officers and officers.”

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/aug10/1-116thVaReturn.html>

### Virginia National Guard News Headlines

#### **Batts promoted to major general**

The commander of the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division was promoted to major general Aug. 24 at Fort Pickett. Celestine Batts “pinned” her husband, Frank E. Batts, Sr., with major general rank in front of a large group of family, officers and senior NCOs from the 29th and the Virginia Guard.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/aug10/BattsPromotion.html>

#### **Virginia Guard's longest serving aviator retires after nearly 42 years of service**

Chief Warrant Officer Norman H. McIntosh, the Virginia National Guard's longest serving aviator, conducted a final flight Aug. 17 to mark his retirement after nearly 42 years of service.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/aug10/McIntosh.html>

#### **Virginia Guard chaplains serve Soldiers responding to Gulf oil disaster**

Chaplain (Capt.) Jeffery Hicks of Elkton, Va., and Pfc. Robert Mathis, a chaplain assistant from Spotsylvania, Va., are one of two chaplain support teams serving the spiritual needs and improving morale to responders of the Deepwater Horizon Response Gulf Coast oil spill.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/aug10/gulfchaplains.html>

#### **192d Security Forces train outdoors to amplify knowledge**

Virginia Air National Guard Security Forces took their traditional classroom training and ratcheted it up a few notches by applying realistic, outdoor scenarios at Fort Eustis June 7-18 as part of their annual field training.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/aug10/192dSecForce.html>

### Mark Your Calendars!

#### **Joint Family Support Assistance Program Regional ReachOuts**

Joint Family Support Assistance Program is sponsoring informative workshops for all military service members and their families on the following date:

Lynchburg: Sept. 14 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Red Cross Chapter Office at 1007 Sheffield Drive.

The JFSAP Personal Financial Consultant will be presenting the first of a series of educational seminars on financial management topics at various locations throughout the state.

The kick-off event will be “It’s My Business!” a fun and interactive program to teach children and adults about entrepreneurship. Bring the whole family!

For more info contact Kaye Carney at (804) 926 -7604.

# Gate City-based battalion awarded Reckord Trophy

The Virginia Guard's Gate City-based 1030th Transportation Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group has been recognized as the most outstanding Army National Guard battalion in the country for the 2009 training year. The battalion received the Major General Milton A. Reckord Trophy Aug. 23 at the 132nd National Guard Association of the United States General Conference in Austin, Texas and will be presented the General Walter T. Kerwin Award Oct. 26 at Association of the United States' Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

"The 1030th Transportation Battalion had an incredible training year," said Lt. Col. Doug Messner, commander of the battalion during the 2009 training year. "The success of the battalion came from the desire of the Soldiers and leadership to be ready to deploy. The commitment from the leaders created an environment conducive to training and mentoring Soldiers, and they were given training that was well-planned, well-resourced and executed in a highly safe manner. The end result was highly motivated troops who received valuable, tough and realistic training." Messner relinquished command July 10 to Lt. Col. Doyle Gillis.

NGAUS, AUSA and the Reserve Officers Association of the United States present the Walter T. Kerwin Readiness Award jointly to the Army National Guard unit with the highest level of readiness in the country.

"It is an honor and represents the quality of folks we have in Virginia," said Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia. "It sets a stake in the ground for what is possible for all of our units to strive to achieve. The units that win awards like this pay great attention to detail, and we need to have leaders who are willing to put in the time and be dedicated to make sure their unit is the very best."

The 1710th Transportation Company also received the "Certificate of Victory" award for outstanding accomplishment in unit marksmanship.

Evaluation criteria for the awards include the areas of assigned personnel strength, percentage of personnel qualified in their duty position, attendance at monthly drill weekends and annual training, individual weapons qualification scores and physical fitness test scores. Battalions also must have an effective maintenance program for all units and must achieve readiness objectives as outlined by U.S. Forces Command.

Significant highlights for the 1030th include:

- The Emporia-based 1710th Transportation Company returned from federal deployment to Iraq and the battalion provided Soldiers from the 329th Regional Support Group's logistics advisory mission to Iraq.
- The Gate City-based 1032nd Transportation Company and the Martinsville-based 1173rd Transportation Company supported the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division by transporting critical equipment from Fort Drum, N.Y. to Fort Polk, La. and back to Fort Drum, travelling more than 2,400 miles.
- The Rocky Mount-based 229th Chemical Company fielded new smoke generators during their annual training, and the



**Capt. Keith McCluskey, commander of the 1710th Transportation Company, receives the Reckord Trophy Aug. 23 in Austin, Texas, on behalf of the 1030th Transportation Battalion from Gen. James D. Thurman, commander of U.S. Army Forces Command.**

Blackstone-based 3647th Maintenance Company conducted annual training at Camp Dodge, Iowa to improve their ability to perform maintenance operations.

- The Virginia National Guard's Gate City-based 1032nd Transportation Company received the Department of the Army's annual Philip A. Connelly Award for excellence in Army Food Service in the National Guard Field Kitchen Category.

- The 1030th's Headquarters Detachment, the 1032nd and 229th all conducted external maintenance inspections, and each unit passed with the lowest overall score being 97 percent.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/aug10/1030thReckord.html>

## MORE ON THE WEB

### Warrior Training Center brings Air Assault to Virginia

<http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/aug10/AirAssaultCourse.html>

### Virginia-based assault helicopter battalion trains at Fort Bragg

<http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/aug10/224thAT.html>

### Guard Cavalry unit from Virginia uses high-tech simulator

<http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/aug10/CCTT.html>

### NASCAR driver visits Virginia Air National Guard

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157624753863250/>

### Virginia National Guard on Facebook

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